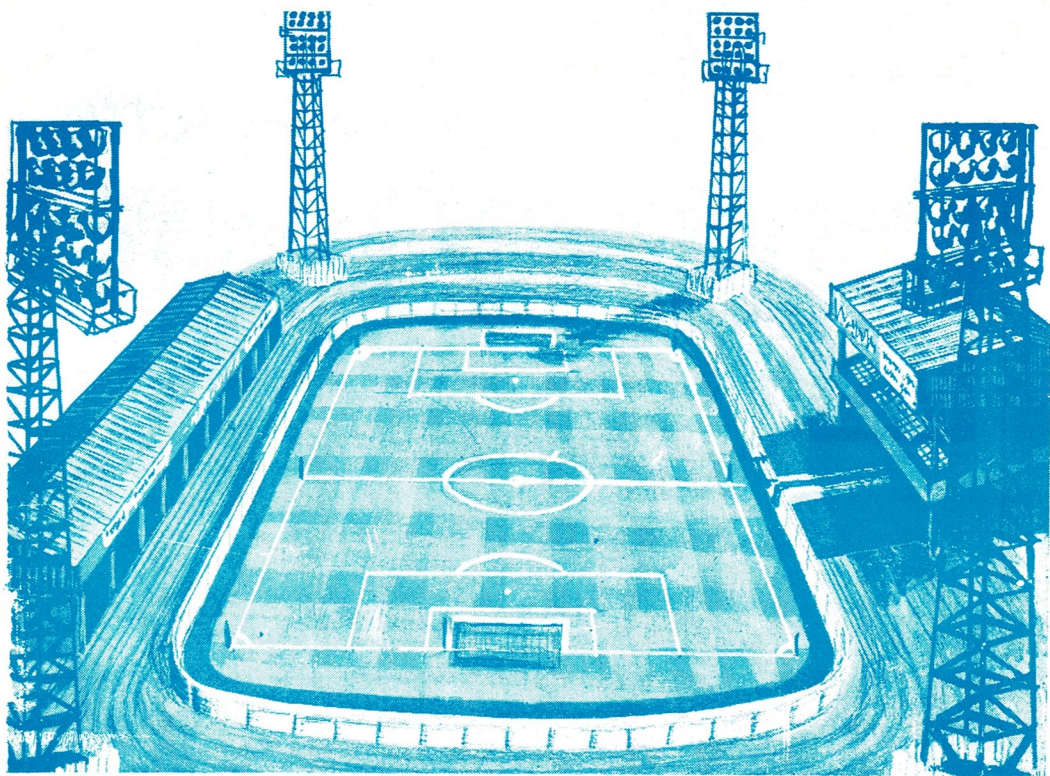


# ATHLETIC

## WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

v.

# HALIFAX TOWN

Wednesday, 18th October, 1978 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

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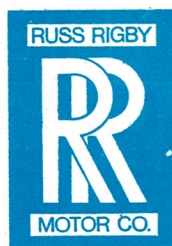
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Dr. S. K. AHUJA

Our visitors tonight, Halifax Town, were formed in 1911, and became members of the Yorkshire Combination, and eventually the club became a member of the Midland League. At that time they played on a ground named Sandhall. The ground at Sandhall, however, was claimed for war purposes and they then obtained the present Shay Ground which has ample accommodation for a large crowd.

Halifax were founder members of the 3rd Division North in 1921. On 14th February 1953 they had their record home gate of 36,885 with receipts of £4,898, against Tottenham in the F.A. Cup.

During the club's long history it has come close to 2nd Division football on two occasions, the first in 1935 when they finished as runners-up to Doncaster Rovers (only one team being promoted at this time) and again in 1971 when third place was gained behind promoted Preston and Fulham.

Although they have previously had gates of over 30,000, their present ground capacity at The Shay is 25,000, with 2,217 seated. Record Victory v. Bishop Auckland F.A. Cup 7-0; Record Defeat 0-13 v. Stockport 3rd Div. North, 6th Jan. 1934; Most League points 57, Division 4, 1968-69. League Scoring Record, this was made by a boy from Aspull, near Wigan, Albert Valentine, who scored 34 goals in 1934-35. Honours, promotion from Division 4, 1968-69. Playing area at The Shay, 110 x 70 yards.

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## **A word from the Manager**

---

Tonight we welcome Jimmy Lawson and his Halifax team to Springfield Park. Currently at the foot of the league table. I watched them earlier in the season beat Stockport County 2-1, and they looked a decent side, so tonight's match will be no easy encounter.

### **DONCASTER MATCH**

I was very pleased with our performance on Saturday, and if we can continue in the same confident mood this evening then I am sure we can go to Barnsley on Saturday and give them something to worry about.

Against Doncaster, with a little bit more luck and a little better finishing, we could possibly have won by four goals.

I also felt our supporters were right behind us and gave us plenty of encouragement. I also note our gate of 5,788 was the best in the League. This is a magnificent situation we are in, and we are no doubt proving an asset to the Football League. When you look at Wimbledon's crowd of 3,800 and they are top of the League, you realise the fantastic potential we have.

### **TEAM SPIRIT**

One major factor in a successful team is team spirit, and I can assure you I don't think I have been concerned with a bunch of players before with more spirit than our present squad. As long as we can continue to take the spirit from the dressing room on to the field of play, and as long as our supporters join in as well, the success of Wigan Athletic in League football is guaranteed.

Enjoy tonight's match.

IAN McNEILL, Manager.

---

## **Forthcoming Fixtures**

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Next home match—

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

SATURDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC v. NORTHAMPTON TOWN**

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LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, 21st OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES v. CARLISLE UNITED RESERVES**

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## Focus on FRANK CORRIGAN

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<i>Full Name :</i>	Francis Joseph Corrigan.
<i>Birthplace :</i>	Liverpool.
<i>Birthdate :</i>	13th November, 1952.
<i>Height :</i>	5 ft. 11 ins.
<i>Weight :</i>	13 stone.
<i>Previous Clubs :</i>	Blackpool, Walsall.
<i>Married :</i>	Yes, to Anne.
<i>Children :</i>	Daughter : Sian.
<i>Car :</i>	Landrover.
<i>Favourite player :</i>	Ray Kennedy.
<i>Favourite other team :</i>	Liverpool.
<i>Most difficult opponent :</i>	All hard, especially Jackie Pallo.
<i>Most memorable match :</i>	Northwich Vics v. Watford, 3rd round F.A. Cup 1976, won 3-2.
<i>Biggest thrill :</i>	Scoring winner in above game.
<i>Biggest disappointment :</i>	Losing semi-final F. A. Challenge Trophy.
<i>Best country visited :</i>	Wales.
<i>Favourite food :</i>	Steak, mushrooms and spaghetti.
<i>Miscellaneous likes :</i>	Sport in general.
<i>Miscellaneous dislikes :</i>	Being substituted/substitute.
<i>Favourite TV shows :</i>	Mastermind and Little House on the Prairie.
<i>Favourite singers :</i>	Brian Ferry and The Beatles.
<i>Favourite actors :</i>	Peter Sellers, Dustin Hoffman.
<i>Best friend:</i>	Many.
<i>Biggest influence on career :</i>	Brother and Father-in-law.
<i>Biggest drag in soccer :</i>	Losing.
<i>International honours :</i>	None.
<i>Personal ambition :</i>	To continue being happy.
<i>Professional ambition :</i>	Win a major honour with Wigan.
<i>If not in football, what would you like to be :</i>	A millionaire.
<i>Which person in the world would you most like to meet :</i>	Peter Sellers.



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## Pen Pictures of Halifax Town A.F.C.

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**MICK LEONARD**, goalkeeper. Signed for Halifax in July 1976. Carshalton born, Micky established himself as first choice goalkeeper following the sale of Terry Gennoe to Southampton last season. Brave and talented, 18 years of age, he has already established a reputation for his effective role in the team. 21 league appearances last term.

**LEE BRADLEY**, defender. Manchester born, Lee signed for Halifax in October 1976, after previously being with Preston and Stockport. A 21 year old who has proved a consistent and dependable team man. Made 29 appearances in the league last season.

**PETER BURKE**, defender. Joined the club March 1978 from Barnsley and quickly established himself as an invaluable back four player. Skilful and determined, he looks to have a highly promising future in the game. Born Rotherham, ever present since signing, 13 league appearances.

**GEOFF HUTT**, defender. Prior to signing for Halifax in March 1978, Leeds born Geoff played for Huddersfield Town, Dutch Haarlem F.C. and York City. A resolute defender who has quickly "settled in."

**JACK TRAINER**, defender. Born Glasgow, a strong skilful player and a popular character both on and off the field. Formerly with Queens Park, Seiko (Hong Kong) and Cork Hibernian. Made 28 league appearances last term.

**STEVE SMITH**, midfield. Came to the Shay after a distinguished career with Huddersfield Town. Steve, a consistent performer during the 1977-78 campaign has just completed his first full season with the club. Appeared in 42 league games last season.

**CHRIS DUNLEAVY**, defender. Joined Halifax in October 1976, after previously being with Chester. His ability, skill and determination has given added strength to the defence. A fractured cheek bone put Chris out of action at the back end of last term but he is now fit again and ready for the new season. 43 league appearances last season.

**JOHNNY JOHNSTON**, midfield. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Johnny joined the Shaymen in July 1976. A great utility player, he is able to take over any position and has played a full league game in goal. Previously with Blackpool, Southport and Bradford City. 25 league appearances last season.

**JIMMY LAWSON**, player/manager. Immediately proved his value when he took over as manager from Alan Ball in November 1977, and was able to turn round the team's fortunes from the outset. A highly organised and well disciplined manager as well as fulfilling the role of a 'key' team member. Born Middlesborough, his previous clubs before signing for Halifax in June 1976 were Middlesborough and Huddersfield Town. Made 38 league appearances last season.

**JON NIXON**, winger. Equally at home in midfield or on the wing, Jon joined Halifax in the close season, July 1978, and is looking forward to continuing a successful career which has previously taken him to Derby County, Notts County, Peterboro Utd., Shrewsbury Town and Barnsley. Born Ilkston.

**FRANCIS (FRANNY) FIRTH**, winger. Settled in well the club after signing from Huddersfield in February 1978. A very fit and speedy player who likes to take on the opposition. Born Dewsbury; 18 league appearances last season.

**BOB MOUNTFORD**, striker. Formerly with Huddersfield, Bob came to the Shay from Rochdale in March '78, and has proved an invaluable asset. A whole hearted player whose displays have earned him the respect of both opponents and team-mates. Appeared in 10 league games last season.

**KEVIN JOHNSON**, winger. Signed for Halifax in 1978 for a club record fee of £25,000 from Huddersfield. Formerly with Hartlepool. A left sided player who is equally at home on the wing or in midfield. A proven penalty taker, his career has also included short spells with Sheffield W., Southend, Gillingham and Workington.

**JOE CARROLL**, striker. A 21 year old with a high degree of skill and promise. Signed for a £6,000 fee in October 1976 from Oldham. Looks certain to have a promising future. Born Radcliffe, Manchester. 32 league appearances in 1977-78.

**DEREK BELL**, striker. Joined Halifax 1975, from Derby County. His speed and effectiveness make him a respected opponent. He had an outstanding season last term and was voted the club's 'Player of the Year'. Appeared in 44 league games last season.

**TONY LOSKA**, defender. Joined the Shaymen in November 1976 from Chester. A reliable and consistent defender who was formerly with Port Vale and Shrewsbury. Made 35 appearances in the league last season.

**NEW AND REBUILT**

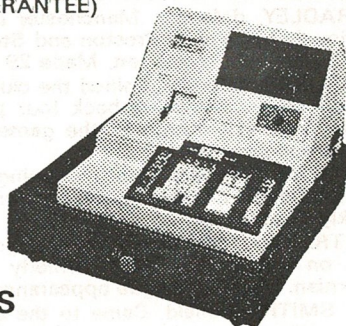
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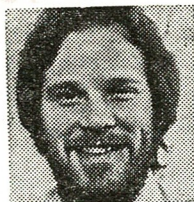


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## LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury

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Good and bad news this week for striker Peter Houghton. The good news was the green light to begin playing competitive football again after six weeks sidelined with a broken wrist.

But the bad news was the discovery that the break had failed to heal properly despite such a long spell encased in plaster and there is a very real risk that the weakened wrist may not withstand the punishment of Division Four football.

Being a centre forward doesn't help any either. Houghton is expected to make his presence known in more ways than merely finding the back of the net and as a target man he comes in for special attention from defenders.

Front runner is a bruising position to play at the best of times and Houghton will have to race uncompromising Division Four centre halves knowing that an awkward fall could easily put him back to square one.

So, will the wrist put him off his game? Houghton thinks not and came through the first test in the reserves at Rochdale on Saturday confident that he is ready to resume League football.

Houghton said: "I'm conscious of the wrist not being 100 per cent, but I don't think it will affect my game. I'll be playing with it strapped up to give it extra support, so I should be able to forget about it and get on with the job."

Houghton came into the reckoning for tonight's game and the striker's return to duty was welcome news indeed for manager Ian McNeill.

Although Latics have now taken seven points from the last ten, goals have been hard to come by and Houghton could be the man to supply them.

Houghton back in the first team would take the weight of Micky Moore and give him the time to break his scoring duck.

Having got the defence sorted out, Mr. McNeill can now start finding the right blend up front and having more players than positions is always better than having no choice at all.

---

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Home and Away — read NICK DUXBURY in Wigan's own

**Evening Post & Chronicle**

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## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

The Chairman, who is still away could possibly arrive in time to see tonight's game and I am sure he will be pleased with the results achieved since his departure some 14 days ago. Although results have been pleasing recently our league position has not improved, but it is still early doors and only a few points divide the top four from the bottom four at the present time.

Clubs in the 4th Division are making strenuous efforts to improve their sides and some big money is being offered for proved players; it appears, therefore, that as the season advances it could possibly become more difficult to make progress. In view of the fact that a non-league club has been elected for the past two years none of the present 4th Division clubs are particularly interested in finishing in the bottom four. This tends to make the competition more interesting and possibly stronger.

Looking back to non-league football a terrific fight is expected this season amongst Northern Premier League clubs, as the top seven clubs this season will, with the top thirteen in the Southern Premier League, form a new Premier League Alliance of 20 clubs. These 20 clubs will, I am sure, all have their sights on League Football in the future. But where are the past giants of the NPL—Boston and Bangor are in the bottom seven, Stafford and Scarborough in mid-table, at the moment only Altrincham and Northwich are in the top seven. Southport are not far behind.

Tonight we welcome to Springfield Park, Halifax Town. Halifax are no strangers to Wigan, we beat them in the F.A. Cup here in the early seventies when at the time Halifax were in the 3rd Division.



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**FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV**

**WEDNESDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.**

## Line-up

### WIGAN ATHLETIC

(Blue and White Stripes)

- 1 John Brown
- 2 Kevin Smart
- 3 Joe Hinnigan
- 4 Tommy Gore
- 5 Noel Ward
- 6 Dave Fretwell
- 7 Frank Corrigan
- 8 Jeff Wright
- 9 Mickey Moore
- 10 Derek Brownbill
- 11 Ian Purdie
- 12

### HALIFAX TOWN

- 1 Mick Leonard
- 2 Lee Bradley
- 3 Tony Loska
- 4 Kevin Johnson
- 5 Peter Burke
- 6 Chris Dunleavy
- 7 Franny Firth
- 8 Joe Carroll
- 9 Bob Mountford
- 10 Jimmy Lawson
- 11 Derek Bell
- 12 Steve Smith

**Referee : Mr. D. W. LLOYD (Worcester)**

**Linesmen : Mr. P. Hargreaves (Blackburn) Red Flag)**

**Mr. G. M. McManus (Connah's Quay) Yellow Flag**

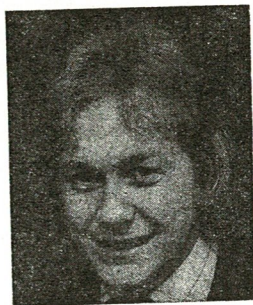
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## OPINION

by Harold Ashurst

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At the time of writing the result of Saturday's game is not known, but tonight's game against Halifax Town one of the clubs below Latics in the league table, gives them a chance to build on what has been a very successful four weeks.



After their mediocre start Latics have picked up in great fashion, taking five points from a possible eight up to last Saturday.

They also seem to be killing the "home jinx" that has plagued their performances at Springfield for so long.

There was no doubt about Latics' performance away but it was the home fans that needed convincing. Now they seem to be doing that.

A number of things have contributed to the rise. The team has been gaining in confidence, some unlucky defeats early on but they have now become acclimatised to the Fourth Division game. The tackles are harder, the challenge is stronger and all the players have sharpened up on the individual aspects of their game.

Latics still have some way to go before they can call themselves a fully fledged Fourth Division side but they are on the right lines now and the team is being strengthened one position at a time when it is needed.

There should be another step towards improvement tonight, but let's hope the weather is better than when they last played Halifax a few years ago. The match was played in a raging blizzard but there was still over 8,000 on for the F.A. Cup tie which Latics won 2-1.

---

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## LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

### Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August— F-A

18—Blackpool 'A' .....H 2-1

25—Southport Res. ....H 1-1

September—

2—Everton 'A' .....A 2-1

9—Chester 'A' .....H 1-3

15—Tranmere R. Res. ....A 0-0

16— .....

23—Bradford City Res. ....H 5-0

30—Liverpool 'A' .....A 1-2

October—

7—Rochdale Res. ....H 2-2

14—Rochdale Res. ....A 0-1

21—Carlisle Utd. Res. ....H

27—Stockport County 'A' .....A (Fri.)

November—

11—Tranmere R. Res. ....H

18—Crewe Alex 'A' .....A

25—Manchester City 'A' .....A

December—

2—Blackpool 'A' .....A

9—Port Vale Res. ....H

16—Chester 'A' .....A

23—Macclesfield T. Res. ....H

26— .....

30—Morecambe Res. ....A

1979

January— F-A

1—Oldham Ath. Res. ....H (Mn.)

6—Morecambe Res. ....H

13—Port Vale Res. ....A

20—Manchester City 'A' .....H

27—Macclesfield T. Res. ....A

February—

3—Bradford City Res. ....A

10—Crewe Alex Res. ....H

17—Manchester Utd. 'A' .....A

24—Oldham Ath. Res. ....A

March—

3—Carlisle Res. ....A

10—Stockport County 'A' .....H

17—Bolton Wanderers 'B' .....A

24—Bolton Wanderers 'B' .....H

31—Wrexham Res. ....A

April—

7—Manchester Utd. 'A' .....H

13—Southport Res. ....A (Fri.)

15—Wrexham Res. ....H

16— .....

21—Liverpool 'A' .....H

28— .....

May—

5—Everton 'A' .....H

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A married man, with two children, he is a Training Manager for a High Pressure Die Casting Company. Interested in all sports, he played amateur soccer for Stoke City and as a professional for Worcester City until a knee injury cut short his playing career. Played football and cricket for Worcester schools and football for Worcestershire F.A. at senior level. Is a qualified M.C.C. cricket coach to a local club. Is vice-chairman of the Worcester Referees' Society and vice-president of his works sports and social club.



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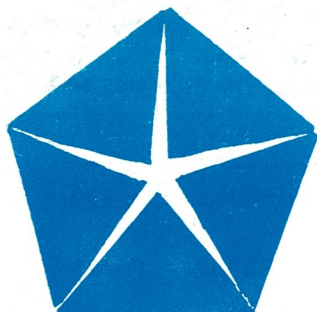
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